

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4585

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KN, ML

SUBJECT: STATE CEREMONIES FOR NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR

REF: BAMA KO 2974

1. THE UNEXPECTED DEATH NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR AND DEAN OF BAMA KO DIPLOMATIC CORPS KIM DJOUNG KEUL (REFTEL) GAVE THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT AN OCCASION TO AFFIRM ITS SOLIDARITY WITH NORTH KOREA. ALTHOUGH VACATIONING PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE DID NOT ATTEND THE EULOGY CEREMONY AS ANTICIPATED, KEY MEMBERS OF THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE ATTENDED EACH OF THE MEMORIAL CEREMONIES IN THE WEEK-LONG SERIES OF OBSERVANCES. FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKHO PRESIDED AT THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL KEITA ACCOMPANIED THE CASKET TO PYONGYANG.

2. VARIOUS SPEECHES AND PRESS ITEMS CHARACTERIZED AMBASSADOR KIM AS, INTER ALIA, A PIONEER IN REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN MALI AND KOREA, A FRIEND AND BATTLE COMPANION, AN INTRANSIGENT FIGHTER IN THE WORKERS' CAUSE, AND FIERCE DEFENDER OF HIS COUNTRY'S UNITY. MALI'S OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR GAVE FRONT PAGE

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HEADLINES TO EACH OF THE REMEMBRANCE CEREMONIES.

3. COMMENT: THE EXTENSIVE MALIAN STATE OBSERVANCES OF THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR KIM IS BUT ANOTHER INDICATION OF GOM'S UNQUESTIONING ALLEGIANCE TO THE NORTH KOREAN CAUSE. WHILE THE NORTH KOREANS SOMETIMES BUY PRESS SPACE IN MALI MEDIA, THE ELABORATE COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR KIM'S DEATH AND THE EXPLICIT USE OF NORTH KOREAN BOILERPLATE IN THE TEXTS OBVIOUSLY HAD THE GOM'S UNSOLICITED SUPPORT. WE MAY EXPECT SIMILAR MALIAN SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN POSITIONS IN THE COMING UNGA.

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